

SC EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 18, 1999

2:00PM

Blatt Building, Rm. 433

Minutes of the Meeting

Members present

William Barnet, James Bennett, Rosie Berry, James Bryan, William Gummerson, Robert Harrell, Susan Hoag, Alex Martin, John Matthews, Douglas McTeer, Nikki Setzler, Henry Spann, Robert Staton, Lynn Thompson, Ronald Townsend, Larry Wilson

Welcome

Mr. Barnet welcomed the members of the Committee and guests to the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the January 21 meeting were amended to note that Senator Setzler was present. The minutes were approved as amended.

Subcommittee Reports

(1) Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson indicated the subcommittee was discussing an interim solution for ratings of high schools because neither PACT nor longitudinal data would be available by November 2001. Mrs. Berry asked if the statute required reporting by gender and suggested that the proportion of students with disabilities be included in the similar schools discussion.

Mr. Wilson also noted that the review of the science standards was to begin on February 23, 1999;

The Committee discussed the process and criteria for development of the cost benefit analyses on the ideas and proposals generated by the Palmetto Business Forum, Governor Hodges, Superintendent Tenenbaum and the Friends of Education;

(2) EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported that the guidelines for Accountability Systems had been approved. He again acknowledged the work of teachers and the time commitment for academic planning. Senator Matthews and Senator Setzler concurred. The Subcommittee on Public Awareness is asked to address this issue.

There was discussion of the need for teacher professional development on the standards.

(3) Parent Involvement: Mr. Bennett reported that the Task Force had met the previous evening. The meeting went well. Members asked about actions that would be taken based upon their recommendations. He invited members of the EOC to the meetings. Senator Setzler suggested the Subcommittee also work with the Public Awareness Subcommittee to ensure that parents understand the standards and the change this brings to our schools;

(4) Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on the status of the request for proposals for the public awareness campaign. Upon Mr. Martin's motion, the Committee approved that the Subcommittee could issue the RFP (through state procedures and offices) and select the contractor. Senator Matthews asked that the campaign (and the RFP) address rural and minority populations;

(5) Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnet indicated that the Staff and Administration Subcommittee would meet immediately following the full Committee meeting.

The Annual Report was approved with additions about the Public Awareness campaign.

Other Business

Mr. Spann asked about approaches to addressing the instructional needs of ninth graders who are functioning at the fifth grade level. Members of the Committee discussed issues relative to adequate notice of the program requirements. The committee agreed to ask for a representative of the Attorney General's Office to meet with them in March.

Report on the Middle Grades Project

Dr. Baron Holmes reported on the Carnegie Middle Grades Project (included in the Committee's Annual Report). The Committee discussed the dilemmas of middle grades performance and recommendations for improvement.

The Committee adjourned at 4:30 p.m.